

District 8 • Fall 2011

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LEGISLATIVE *REPORT* FROM YOUR SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR **BILL LINDSAY**



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Lindsay Holds Line on Taxes For Seventh Straight Year

The 'no tax increase' budget

- Freezes County property taxes on all lines.
- Restores \$1.32 million in much needed funding to health centers in Brookhaven, Riverhead, Huntington and Islip.
- Maintains the 'lock box' nature of dedicated funds for drinking water protection and cultural affairs by blocking the County Executive's attempt to raid these funds to pay for recurring salaries.
- Cut \$363,148 in unnecessary positions including County Executive's personal photographer, police department media relations director, an assistant commissioner and Deputy Personnel Officer in the Labor Department.
- Includes funding for 'Shot Spotter' technology to assist the police in fighting gun crimes and moves 30 police to the street during high-crime summer months.
- Provides funding for new Child Protective Services team.
- Restored \$113,000 in funding for mental health agencies.
- Cuts unnecessary equipment, vehicles, supplies and programmatic expenses by \$1.3 million.

Led by Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer William Lindsay, the County Legislature passed its Operating Budget for 2011 after overriding the County Executive's vetoes of a number of critical items.

It is the seventh consecutive time the County Legislature, under Lindsay's leadership, has held the line on general fund property taxes.

"We have held the line on taxes for the seventh consecutive year and I am very proud of that record," Lindsay said. "Through careful management of county resources and strict curbs on spending, we have prevented any tax hikes."

"We have managed to retain critical county services our residents depend on every day while still holding the line on taxes," Lindsay said. "We have restored needed funding to continue critical health services, public safety technologies and operations as well as services to protect children and families." •



Legislator Bill Lindsay (second from right) looks over plans with DPW Chief Engineer Bill Hillman and community residents for the ongoing sidewalk and roadway improvement projects in his district.

OAKDALE

Sidewalk Project Expands

The next part of the ongoing repair and expansion of sidewalks along Montauk Highway in the Eighth Legislative District continued this year with work to repair and construct three miles of sidewalks on Montauk Highway stretching from Greene Avenue near the West Sayville Golf Course to the Long Island Railroad overpass in Oakdale. This is part four of a sidewalk replacement project that began in 2004.

Next year, that portion of Montauk Highway will be resurfaced.

"These sidewalks are an absolute necessity," said Legislator Bill Lindsay. "They are necessary to insure the safety of pedestrians walking along these busy roadways and they are necessary to insure the increased vitality of our busy downtown areas. Without good sidewalks, our businesses are cut off from the consumers they need to survive and our residents are cut off from the businesses they want to patronize."

This sidewalk expansion and repair work began in 2004 when work was done to replace one-quarter mile of the existing curb and sidewalk on Montauk Highway from Railroad Avenue to Greene Avenue.

It continued with Phase 2, replacement of sidewalks along Montauk Highway from Lincoln Avenue to Railroad Avenue and on Middle Road (County Road 65) from Collins Avenue to Montauk Highway.

Phase 3 involved the replacement of a little less than a mile of sidewalk on Montauk Highway from Greene Avenue to Cherry Avenue and on Middle Road from Collins Avenue to the vicinity of Brown's River and almost a half mile of sidewalks along Middle Road.

"Without adequate sidewalks we cannot assure the safety of our residents and the health of our critical downtown business centers," Legislator Lindsay said. •

BAYPORT

Local Eateries Celebrate Their Grand Opening



Legislator Bill Lindsay attends the ribbon cutting for The Fish Store's grand opening of its restaurant.

Suffolk County Legislator Bill Lindsay celebrated the grand opening of The Fish Store's restaurant with owner Seth Needelman recently. Mr. Needelman and The Fish Store in Bayport have been proud members of the Bayport-Blue Point Chamber of Commerce for many years.

The Fish Store in Bayport is a family-run business founded in 1978, and for more than 30 years it has been serving authentic traditional seafood.

"It's great that Seth decided to expand and have a sit-down restaurant," Legislator Lindsay said. "I want to congratulate Seth on his hard work, and I wish him a sea of success."

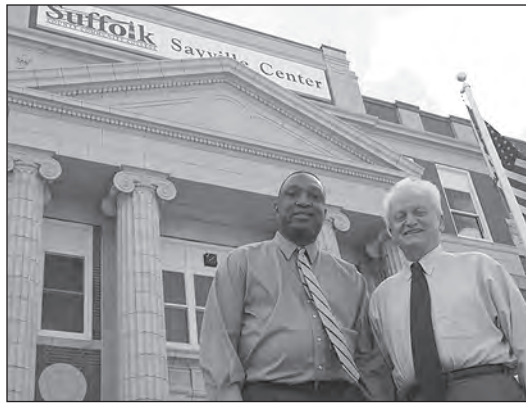
Legislator Lindsay also congratulated Pastry Chef Michelle Gillette on the Grand Opening of Ms. Michelle's Urban Gourmet on Middle Road in Bayport.

"Michelle's dedication has inspired many children to become lifelong culinary artists," Legislator Lindsay said. "I am so proud and honored to be a part of the ribbon-cutting for Michelle's new business. Her new gluten-free bakery is the first of its kind on Long Island." •

Lindsay: Jobs Kept Local with Sayville Nursing School

Suffolk County Legislator Bill Lindsay played a key role in the establishment of the Suffolk County Community College nursing school facility in the former Sayville Middle School, helping to provide education and good jobs for thousands of young county residents.

Nursing jobs were going to out-of-state residents and foreign nationals due to a nursing shortage here. Legislator Lindsay took part in discussions with SCCC, Sayville School District, Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center and the local Chamber of Commerce about turning the vacant school into a satellite center for the nursing program. Since the school's opening, the number of students in SCCC's nursing program has increased from 398 in 2005 to 1,020 today.



Legislator Bill Lindsay (right) and Suffolk County Community College President Shaun McKay in front of the Sayville Center.

"This nursing school is a win for everybody," Legislator Lindsay said. "Our young people get the training they need to enter the nursing field, which continues to be short-handed here. That means they are getting the jobs they need to stay on Long Island. The local economy got a boost from the students and faculty who eat and shop locally. The school district got income from what had been a vacant school building."

Legislator Lindsay also said that Long Island University is negotiating with SCCC to utilize the vacant space at the school to expand LIU's four-year program, giving local students a new opportunity to gain a BA in Suffolk County. LIU will accept all SCCC credits and is offering \$500,000 in scholarships. •

SAYVILLE/WEST SAYVILLE

Leash Is Off at New Dog Park

Suffolk County Legislator Bill Lindsay recently welcomed the Long Island Dog Owners Group and their dogs at a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Cherry Avenue Dog Park in West Sayville. Legislator Lindsay was joined by Long Island Dog Owners Group President Ginny Munger Kahn.

"The Sayville/West Sayville community and all of Suffolk County have been looking forward to the opening of this dog park, and I am very proud to announce that this facility is now open," Legislator Lindsay said.

"This new dog park would not have been possible without Legislator Lindsay's support," said Ginny Munger Kahn.

In addition to the dog run at this state-of-the-art parks facility, there will be a skate park and a fully handicapped-accessible playground with a



Suffolk County Legislator Bill Lindsay opens the Cherry Avenue Dog Park in West Sayville. Legislator Lindsay is joined by Long Island Dog Owners Group President Ginny Munger Kahn and Suffolk County Parks Commissioner Joseph Montuori.

special section designed specifically for children with special needs.

"There has long been a need for these facilities in Sayville and this is the perfect location for the park and

the wide array of activities it will provide," said Legislator Lindsay.

The rest of the project—the skate park and handicapped accessible park—should go out to bid this year. •

OAKDALE

First Hurdle Cleared for Dredging Grand Canal

Suffolk County Legislator Bill Lindsay has cleared the first hurdle in the long battle to get Grand Canal in Oakdale dredged, as he won the approval of county funds to perform the initial planning for the work.

Legislator Lindsay has been fighting to gain state Department of Environmental Conservation approval for the project during his entire time in office, and the DEC has blocked every effort to dredge Grand Canal. However, after Legislator Lindsay met with top DEC officials recently, the state finally agreed to clear the way to at least plan the project and determine what environmental benefits the dredging would provide.

"I am hopeful that the state will be convinced of the necessity of this long overdue dredging," said Legislator Lindsay. "Besides the desperately needed improvement to the navigability of the canal, the project would



Suffolk County Legislator Bill Lindsay (right) tours the Grand Canal in Oakdale this past spring with Oakdale residents Brian Lowery, left, and Andrew Cohen.

also provide environmental benefits by restoring tidal flow in the canal and reinvigorating wetlands starved of the tidal flow they need to thrive."

Test borings will begin before the end of the year after the passage of the legislation sponsored by Legislator Lindsay. The legislation moved an

additional \$50,000 into an appropriation of \$150,000 already in the capital budget for planning the Grand Canal dredging. The transfer added no additional expenditures to the capital budget; instead, the money was transferred from another project that had excess funding. •

HOLBROOK

Community Cleanup Group Started

Suffolk County Legislator Bill Lindsay organized a Holbrook Beautification Committee designed to keep the community clean and well-maintained during these tough economic times.

The committee will use a variety of tactics to maintain neighborhoods including accessing grant monies, volunteerism; the Red Cross Community Service Program and the Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program.

Similar to the Adopt-A-Highway program that already exists,



Legislator Bill Lindsay takes part in a Holbrook community cleanup.

the Beautification Committee has worked in cooperation with local businesses and organizations to start an Adopt-A-Median program.

Two recent community clean-ups sponsored by the Holbrook Beautification Committee attracted more than 50 volunteers each.

"We are in times of great fiscal challenges and as a result we need the support and participation from members of our community to preserve and beautify our neighborhoods," said Lindsay. "This committee is a key part of that effort." •